

comprising means for enabling the scanner automatically to start scanning upon insertion of the document in said guide and to initiate communications protocol with the computer so that the computer may receive the scanned data and store the same for retrieval.--

--54. A system as claimed in claim 53 and in which the computer is provided with an internal fax modem board interfacing with the scanner to enable the system to substitute for facsimile and copy operation.--

--55. In apparatus of the character described having a computer interfacing with a scanner for receiving a document-to-be-scanned, means for enabling the scanner automatically to start scanning upon the placing of a document in the scanner and means for thereupon initiating communications protocol with the computer so that the computer may receive the scanned data and store the same for retrieval.--

--56. In apparatus of the character described, a scanner for receiving a document-to-be-scanned, and means for enabling the scanner automatically to start scanning upon the placing of a document in the scanner.--

REMARKS

The present divisional application has been filed for purposes of interference.

Claims 1-50 have been copied for purposes of interference from U. S. Patent No. 5,499,108 issued March 12, 1996 to Pierre Cotte et al, assigned to Visioneer Communications, Inc., filed December 9, 1992 as a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 922,169, filed July 29, 1992, and hereinafter referred to as the "Cotte -Visioneer patent".

These claims recite the same invention claimed in applications' own claims 17-22 of applicants' divisional application Serial No. 08/472,573, filed June 7, 1995 (from which the present divisional application has been filed), with a parent application filing date of record of February 13, 1992 (Serial No. 07/835,229), preceding any effective filing date of record for the Cotte-Visioneer patent.

Applicants' claims 17-22 have been transferred from their application 472,573 to the present divisional application as respective claims 51-56. As explained in preliminary amendment remarks, these are believed to be allowable over prior art, and may also serve as interference counts.

The Common Invention

The Cotte-Visioneer patent is concerned with solving the problem of providing "a small footprint" of computer workstation input devices wherein

"a paper input device is a computer peripheral which senses the insertion of a document to be scanned, initiates a host computer process, i. e. controls the host process by insertion of the paper and symbols on the paper, scans the images and text on the paper, provides immediate user interface feedback while sending the scanned data to the host for further electronic processing such as display, transmission, storage or modification." (col. 2, line 40, on--under-lining added).

The patentee further states that

"this new technology is a paper input device using scanning technology which controls the host computer rather than the other way around..." (col. 2, line 49, on).

The patentee further contemplates fax functions (col. 21).

While concerned with other novel features of keyboard-scanner integration enabling reduced computer or workstation "space" (page 10), applicants also envisioned the starting of "the scanning process...simply by inserting a document into the scanner feeding slot 14 (master mode)." In this mode,

"the scanner automatically starts scanning, initiates communications protocol with the host computer and the host receives the scanned data into a 'spool' directory where it is stored for application to retrieve it." (page 18).

Use for fax is also implemented by applicants in the "master mode" (p. 23-25).

The Application Of The Cotte-Visioneer Patent Claims To Applicants' Disclosure

Applicants' disclosed apparatus responds to the patent claims in the same manner as they apply to the patentees' similar structure, as follows:

1. A system comprising a document-driven scanning input-device (H3) communicating with a computer (H1), said input device comprising scanning means for generating image data representing the image of a document at (14), and means, responsive to placement of a document by a user, for drawing the document into scanning relationship (3, 4, 6A, etc.) with said scanning means so that said scanning means generates image data (5, 20) representing the image of said document, wherein said placement alone is sufficient to initiate said drawing (p. 18, l. 8-18; p. 24, l. 1, on), and said computer (H1) comprising means for displaying (H2), in response to said placement, a plurality of user-selectable options for processing said image data.]

2. A system according to claim 1 wherein said computer further comprises means for displaying a visual representation of said image data generated in response to said placement (H2).

3. A system according to claim 2 wherein said means for displaying displays said visual representation immediately upon generation of image data by said scanning means (H2; p. 17, l. 11).

4. A system according to claim 1 wherein said computer further comprises means for establishing which option has been selected by the user and for invoking a process corresponding to the option selected by the user and for invoking a process corresponding to the option selected by the user for processing said image data (p. 18, l. 2-18).

5. A system according to claim 1 wherein said computer further comprises means for displaying a visual representation of said image data generated in response to said placement (H2), and means for establishing which option has been selected by the user and for invoking a process corresponding to the option selected by the user for processing said image data (p. 18, l. 17, 18).

6. A system according to claim 5 wherein said means for displaying displays said visual representation immediately upon generation of image data by said scanning means (p. 18, l. 5,6,on).

7. A system according to any one of claims 1-6 wherein said means for drawing the document into scanning relationship with said scanning means responds to the insertion of the document into said input device by the user (p. 18, l. 14; p. 24, l. 1, on).

8. A system according to claim 1 wherein said means for drawing the document into scanning relationship with said scanning means sends an interrupt to said computer in response to said placement and wherein said computer displays said plurality of options in response to receiving said interrupt (inherent in computer operation, including computer types specifically referenced in specification).

9. A system according to claim 1 wherein said means for displaying a plurality of options periodically polls said input device to determine whether a document has been placed by a user (inherent).

10. A system according to claim 1 wherein said computer further comprises means for storing said image data (p. 18., l. 17, 18).

11. A system according to claim 1 wherein said input device further comprises means for storing said image data (p. 18, l. 17, 18).

12. A system comprising a document-driven scanning input device communicating with a computer, said input device comprising scanning means for generating image data representing the image of a document, and means, responsive to placement of a document by a user, for drawing the document into scanning relationship with said scanning means so that said scanning means generates image data representing the image of the document wherein said placement alone is sufficient to initiate said drawing, and said computer comprising means for displaying a visual representation of said image data generated in response to said placement (same response as in claim 1, above).

13. A system according to claim 12 wherein said means for displaying displays said visual representation immediately upon generation of image data by said scanning means (same as claim 3).

14. A system according to claim 12 or claim 13 wherein said means for drawing the document into scanning relationship with said scanning means response to the insertion of the document into said input device by the user (same as claim 7).

15. A system according to claim 12 wherein said means for drawing the document into scanning relationship with said scanning means sends an interrupt to said

computer when a document is placed by a user and wherein said computer displays said visual representation in response to receiving said interrupt and said image data (inherent, as above).

16. A system according to claim 12 wherein said means for displaying a visual representation periodically polls said input devices to determine whether a document has been placed by a user (inherent, as above).

17. A system comprising a document-driven scanning input device communicating with a computer, said input device comprising scanning means for generating image data representing the image of the document; and means responsive to placement of a document by a user, for drawing the document into scanning relationship with said scanning means so that said scanning means generates image data representing the image of the document, wherein said placement alone is sufficient to initiate said drawing (same response as in claim 1), and said computer comprising means for storing said image data generated in response to said placement (p. 18, l. 17, 18).

18. A system according to claim 17 wherein said means for drawing the document into scanning relationship with said scanning means sends an interrupt to said computer in response to said placement and wherein said computer stores said image data in response to receiving said interrupt: and said image data (inherent).

19. A system according to claim 17 wherein said means for storing said image data periodically polls said input device to determine whether a document has been placed by a user (inherent, as above).

20. A document-driven system comprising a scanning input device communicating with a computer, said input device comprising scanning means for generating image data representing the image of a document (same as claim 1), and means for sensing placement of a document by a user and said computer comprising means for displaying in response to said placement, a plurality of user-selectable options for processing said image data, wherein said placement alone is sufficient to initiate display of said options (p. 18., l. 17, 18).

21. A system according to claim 20 wherein said computer further comprises means for establishing which option has been selected by the user and for invoking a process corresponding to the option selected by the user (p. 18).

22. A system according to claim 20 wherein said means for sensing responds to insertion of the document into said input device by the user. (p. 18, l. 5, on; inherent).

23. A system according to claim 20 wherein said means for sensing said placement sends an interrupt to said computer in response to said placement and wherein said computer displays said plurality of options in response to receiver said interrupt (p. 18, l. 5, on; inherent).

24. A system according to claim 20 wherein said means for displaying a plurality of options periodically polls said input device to determine whether a document has been placed by a user (inherent).

25. A system according to any one of claims 20 through 24, wherein said input device further comprises means for drawing the document into scanning relationship with said scanning means in response to said placement (see claim 4).

26. A document-driven system comprising a document scanner, said scanner including a document sensor, and a computer (H1), said computer communicating with said document scanner (3, 4, 5, etc.), said computer displaying, in response to the scanner sensing a document, a plurality of user-selectable options for processing image

data from said scanner, wherein said placement alone is sufficient to initiate display of said options (p. 18, l. 14-18; p. 24, l. 1, on).

27. A system according to claim 26 wherein said computer establishes which option has been selected by the user and invokes a process corresponding to the option selected by the user (p. 18).

28. A system according to claim 26 wherein said sensor responds to insertion of the document into said scanner (same as claim 7).

29. A system according to claim 26 wherein said scanner sends an interrupt to said computer when the scanner senses a document and said computer displays said plurality of options in response to receiving said interrupt (inherent, as above).

30. A system according to claim 26 wherein said computer periodically polls the scanner to determine whether the scanner has sensed a document (inherent).

31. A system according to any one of claims 26 through 30, wherein said scanner scans the document in response to sensing the document (inherent).

32. A document-driven system comprising a document scanner (3, 4, 5, etc.), said scanner, in response to placement of a document by a user, scanning the document and generating image data representing the image of the document, wherein said placement alone is sufficient to initiate said scanning and generating, and a computer (H1), said computer communicating with said document scanner, said computer displaying (H2), in response to said placement, a plurality of user-selectable options for processing said image data (p. 18).

33. A system according to claim 32 wherein said computer displays said visual representation of said image data generated in response to said placement (H2).

34. A system according to claim 32 wherein said computer displays said visual representation immediately upon generation of image data by said scanner (H2).

35. A system according to claim 32 wherein said computer establishes which option has been selected by the user and processes said image data in accordance with the option selected by the user (same as claim 21).

36. A system according to claim 32 wherein said computer displays a visual representation of said image data generated in response to said placement, establishes which option has been selected by the user, and processes said image data in accordance with the option selected by the user (same as claim 27).

37. A system according to claim 36 wherein said computer displays said visual representation immediately upon generation of image data by said scanner (same as claim 34).

38. A system according to any one of claims 32-37 wherein said scanner scans in response to the insertion of the document into the scanner by the user (see claim 7).

39. A system according to claim 32 wherein said scanner sends an interrupt to said computer in response to said placement and wherein said computer displays said plurality of options in response to receiving said interrupt (inherent).

40. A system according to claim 32 wherein said computer periodically polls said scanner to determine whether a document has been placed by a user (inherent).

41. A system according to claim 32 wherein said computer also stores said image data (p. 18, l. 17, 18).

42. A system according to claim 32 wherein said scanner includes storage for said image data (p. 18, l. 17-18).

43. A document-driven system comprising a document scanner, said scanner in response to placement of a document by a user, scanning the document and generating image data representing the image of the document, wherein said placement alone is sufficient to initiate said scanning and generating, and a computer, said computer communicating with said document scanner, said computer displaying a visual representation of said image data generated in response to said placement (same response as in claims 20, 32).

44. A system according to claim 43 wherein said computer displays said visual representation immediately upon generation of image data by said scanner (same as claim 34).

45. A system according to claim 43 or 44 wherein said scanner scans in response to the insertion of the document into the scanner by the user (p. 18, l. 14; p. 24).

46. A system according to claim 43 wherein said scanner sends an interrupt to said computer when a document is placed by a user and wherein said computer displays said visual representation in response to receiving said interrupt and said image data (inherent).

47. A system according to claim 43 wherein said computer periodically polls said scanner to determine whether a document has been placed by a user (inherent; H2).

48. A document-driven system comprising a document scanner, said scanner, in response to placement of a document by a user, scanning a document and generating image data representing the image of the document, wherein said placement alone is sufficient to initiate said scanning and generating, (same as claim 1), and a computer, said computer communicating with said document scanner, said computer storing said image data generated in response to said placement (p. 18, l. 17, 18).

49. A system according to claim 48 wherein said scanner sends an interrupt to said computer in response to said placement and wherein said computer stores said image data in response to receiving said interrupt and said image data (inherent; p. 18, l. 17, 18).

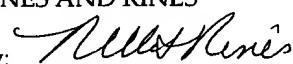
50. A system according to claim 48 wherein said computer periodically polls said input device to determine whether a document has been placed by a user (inherent).

As for applicants' claims 17-22 transferred from application 472,573 and now renumbered herein respectively as 51-56, these clearly read in the same way on applicants' disclosure and that of the patentee since they embrace precisely the same combination as in the above-discussed patent claims.

Declaration of an interference thus appears to be in order and is respectfully requested--it being noted, as before discussed, that applicants are the senior party of record.

Any costs incurred by this amendment may be charged to Deposit Account 18-1425 of the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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